

A N A C C O U N T

Of the Opening of the Parliament of I R E L A N D.

T O G E T H E R

With the Lord Deputy's Speech to both Houses.

3. Sept. 1695. Published by Authority.

Dublin-Castle, 27 Aug. 1695.

THis being the day appointed for the meeting of the Parliament, my Lord-Deputy, attended by Lords Spiritual and Temporal, the Privy Council, the Judges, and other Officers of the State, with the Trumpets, Kettle Drums, and Guards, and the other usual Ceremonies of Grandeur, went from the Castle of Dublin to the Parliament-House, and there putting on the Robes, entred the House of Lords, the Earl of Meath bearing the Cap of Maintenance, the Earl of Barmore carrying the Sword of State, Charles Lord Moor, eldest Son to the Earl of Drogheda, Thomas Fitzmaurice Esq; eldest Son to the Lord Baron of Kerry, and Charles Chichester, Esq; Son to the late Earl of Donegall, holding up the Train, and his Excellency after making his Bow to the Cloth of State, Seated himself in the Chair under the Canopy. Then the Lord Chancellor declared his Excellencies Pleasure, that the Lords should Seat themselves, and kneeling, conferr'd with his Excellency, and standing on the Right hand of the Chair of State, ordered the Gentleman-Usher of the Black-Rod to acquaint the Commons that it was his Excellencies Pleasure, they should attend him immediately in this House.

The Usher of the Black Rod returned and acquainted his Excellency that the Commons were at the door. Who being come the Bar, the Lord Deputy made a Speech to both Houses.

After which the Lord Chancellor kneeling, Conferred again with his Excellency, and then standing on the Right hand of the Chair of State, acquainted the Commons that it was his Excellencies Pleasure they should return to their House and chuse their Speaker, and present him to his Excellency on Thursday Morning next. And then My Lord Deputy withdrew, and the House of Lords being Adjourned to Thursday, his Excellency returned to the Castle attended as before.

The Commons being returned to their House, chose Robert Rochfort Esq; His Majesties Attorney-General for their Speaker, and by general Consent placed him in the Chair, and Resolved to meet on Thursday Morning at Eight of the Clock, in order to present their Speaker to his Excellency at the time appointed.

My Lord Deputy's S P E E C H.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Many and Great are the Obligations you owe to His Majesty, I shall mention but a few of them, His Majesty has appeared Himself in your Cause, He has fought your Battles, and at his own Personal hazard has restored you to your Religion and Estates; And that every thing may concur to make you happy. His Majesty has now called you together in Parliament, that by reasonable and necessary Laws, you may prevent the like dangers for the time to come, and secure your Selves and your Posterity upon the best and surest Foundation.

I shall not, I am sure I ought not to doubt, but you will make returns of Loyalty and Affection suitable to the Extraordinary Benefit you have received, which

cannot be better Expressed, than by a Dutiful and Grateful comportment towards his Majesty, and by shewing a perfect and forward Zeal in such things as tend to His Honour and Your own Advantage.

I must acquaint you, that His Majesty's Revenue has fallen short of the Establishment which has occasioned great Debts to the Civil and Military Lists. That it is with difficulty and stopping of all manner of Payments but what are absolutely Necessary, that the Army hath hitherto been subsisted. There are also several other Debts due from the Crown, a State whereof I have ordered to be laid before you, Gentlemen of the House of Commons; by which you will see that the Supplies are Necessary for the discharge of those Debts, and for the support of the Government.

For raising some part of this Money, His Majesty has sent you a Bill for an additional Duty of Excize, and he expects from you, Gentlemen of the House of Commons, that you will consider of Ways and Means for raising such other Sums as are requisite for His Service, and prepare Heads of Bills to be passed into Laws in due Form. And you will be the more cheerful in Giving, when I assure you, That what Money you give, shall be applied to the Uses for which it is given.

One thing I must recommend to you, That you will take some Care for the Rebuilding and Repairing of Churches in the several parts of your Country, That the People having Decent Publick Places of Worship may be the better Instructed in their Duty to their God and Obedience to their King: It is a Tribute due to Almighty God for Our Late Preservation and Deliverance, and will, I am verily perswaded, be one of the best means you can think of, to preserve the True Established Religion, and to provide against future Rebellions.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I must inform you, that the Lords Justices of England have with great Application and dispatch, Considered and Retransmitted all the Bills sent to them; That some of these Bills have more Effectually provided for your future Security, than hath ever heretofore been done; and in my Opinion, the want of such Laws has been one of the Great Causes of your past Miseries; And it will be your Fault as well as Misfortune, if you neglect to lay hold on the Opportunity, now put into your hands by Our Great and Gracious King, of making such a Lasting Settlement, that it may never more be in the power of your Enemies to bring the like Calamities again upon you, or to put England to that Vast Expence of Blood and Treasure, it hath so often been at, for Securing this Kingdom to the Crown of England.

His Majesty has been pleased to Appoint me his Deputy in this Government. I am truly Sensible of my Unfitness for this Great Station, and the Difficulties which attend it. Yet I assure you, I have, and will Discharge the Trust reposed in me, with a Steadfast Loyalty and Truth to his Majesty's Interest and Service, and with a perfect Sincerity to yours; And that I have no other end or Ambition, than to see you Settled under his Majesty's most Happy Government, in Peace and Prosperity.

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